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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, May 26, 2010)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The visiting Chaplain today, Chaplain William F. Cuddy, Jr., will lead the Senate in prayer.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.
Eternal Father, we acknowledge Your presence and seek an outpouring of Your Spirit on our Senators as they deliberate laws and policy that will enable us to be a great nation. O Lord, we ask that You open their hearts to You, strengthen their minds for the work at hand, enkindle within them a deeper desire to build upon the legacies of the Senate, and give them zeal and a breath of wisdom to improve the quality and dignity of life for all. May their labors this day bear fruit, may their families experience Your peace, and may their work accomplish Your will for our Nation and the world communities.

We ask this and all things in Your holy and divine Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 27, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I will yield a few minutes to my friend from Florida to introduce the guest Chaplain.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LEMIEUX. Madam President, I am honored to welcome Captain William F. Cuddy, as the guest Chaplain for the U.S. Senate for today. Since July of 2006, Captain Cuddy has served as Chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Coast Guard Chaplains have a long history of assisting service men and their families in their spiritual journey. Since 1929, when Chaplain Roy L. Lewis was ordered to the submarine base at Groton, CT, with primary duties to the base and additional duties to the Coast Guard Academy, religious ministry has been a critical component of supporting the men and women who shoulder the burdens of safeguarding our homeland.

Captain Cuddy proudly continues that tradition by providing religious counsel to our young men and women who are often tested by military life.

What's more, Captain Cuddy's ministerial outreach is an asset to the fam-

ilies of our Coast Guard men and women during spouses' deployments away from home.

A native of Boston, MA, Captain Cuddy graduated from Cathedral High School in June 1967 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served aboard the USS *Essex* homeported in Newport, RI, until 1970, when he left active duty for the Navy Reserve and entered Fitchburg State College. He graduated in 1974 with bachelor of science in education.

Captain Cuddy then entered St. John's Seminary in 1974. During his seminary studies, Captain Cuddy remained active as an aviation structural support technician with a number of Reserve squadrons and was commissioned an ensign in March 1977 in the Chaplain Corps' Theological Student Candidate Program.

After graduating from St. John's Seminary in 1979, he was ordained by Cardinal Humberto Medeiros for service in the Archdiocese of Boston and received an appointment in the Reserve Chaplain Corps in 1980 as a lieutenant junior grade.

Captain Cuddy once again reported for active duty in July 1990. While assigned to Mayport, FL, from 1998 to 2001, he provided chaplain support to the Coast Guard units in northern Florida. In this role, he provided spiritual support to the men and women safeguarding our country.

On behalf of the State of Florida and my colleagues here in the Senate, I thank Captain Cuddy for his service to our country and for his prayer today. We welcome him to the U.S. Senate.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4899, which is the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. There will be up to 20 minutes for debate prior to a series of votes. In the first series, the Senate will proceed to vote in relation to the following amendments: McCain No. 4214, National Guard; Kyl No. 4228, as modified, dealing with courthouse funding; Cornyn No. 4202, as modified and amended, if amended, dealing with border security.

There will then be up to 15 minutes of debate prior to votes on the following items: Feingold No. 4204, dealing with a report on the war in Afghanistan; Coburn No. 4231, offset including real property; Coburn No. 4232, offset with spending cuts; and there will be cloture on the committee-reported substitute amendment to H.R. 4899, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

All votes after the first vote will be 10-minute votes.

VALUING LIFE

Mr. REID. Madam President, a community in Kansas still shakes 1 year after the brazen murder of one of its own. This weekend will mark the first anniversary of Dr. George Tiller's death. He was gunned down in front of his Wichita church the day before the last Memorial Day.

Dr. Tiller was killed at point-blank range at his place of worship in the middle of a Sunday morning, while his wife sang in the church choir just a few yards away.

He was murdered by an unrepentant assassin who took his life in the name of protecting life. It was an indefensible crime and an incomprehensible excuse.

Just as despicable as Dr. Tiller's death was the fact that his murder wasn't an isolated incident. It wasn't even the first time someone tried to kill him. His clinic was bombed in 1985. He was shot twice in 1993. Over the next 16 years, 7 clinic workers would be killed before Dr. Tiller would become the eighth murder victim. More than 6,000 other acts of violence have been launched at clinics and their workers—bombings, arsons, assaults, and other attacks. One of the things they do is go into one of these clinics and throw acid all over and make the building not habitable.

The last doctor killed before Dr. Tiller was a husband and father from Buffalo named Barnett Slepian. He was an OB/GYN, who also helped poor women access safe, legal abortions. Because of that, he was murdered in his home, in his kitchen—standing in his kitchen, he was shot through the window with a high-powered rifle and murdered. I didn't personally know Dr. Slepian, but I knew his niece. She came from Reno, NV, and she once worked in my office.

She worked as a legislative assistant and a speechwriter. Her name is Amanda Robb. She is now an accomplished writer living in the Presiding Officer's State of New York. As life is so unpredictable and so unusual, I worked on the speech last night, and to the person helping me, Stephen Krupin, I said, "We are going to talk about Dr. Slepian, whose niece worked for me. And she is here in Washington today—just out of nowhere. I have a gathering every Thursday morning, and I will be darned, Amanda Robb showed up, which is so unusual. I was so glad to see her. She was a great personality and someone I will always remember having worked for me."

The tragedy of Dr. Tiller's death and of Dr. Slepian's death—and of every atrocity like it—is independent of the issue of abortion. It is not about the legality of abortion or the funding of it. These are emotional debates, and ones on which people of good faith can disagree.

What so shook that Kansas town was rather an act of terrorism. What reverberated out to our borders and coasts from the center of our country was the violation of our founding principle—that we are a nation of laws, not of men.

Everyone in America has the right to disagree with its laws. Everyone has the right to dispute and protest its laws. But no American has a right to disobey the laws.

Not all of us would choose Dr. Tiller's profession or seek his services or agree with his philosophy or that of Dr. Slepian, but it is the responsibility of every American to respect another's right to practice his profession legally.

Those who believe in the sanctity of life cannot be selective. We must value every life—not just those with which we agree.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, later this morning, we will have some important votes related to national security. Passage of the defense portion of the supplemental will fund the surge forces in Afghanistan and our ongoing military efforts in Iraq.

Thanks to the McChrystal strategy, American forces have already brought a lot of pressure on the Taliban in Afghanistan. We need to keep that pressure up if this counterinsurgency strategy is to succeed, and it must.

This is why I encourage all Members to vote against the Feingold amendment, which calls for a plan of withdrawal of the forces from Afghanistan. When it comes to funding our operations in Iraq, we must be committed

to providing the assistance and forces necessary to provide security as the Iraqis work to form a new government.

We will also have votes related to the security of our borders. This is clearly a very pressing issue. We should respond with the urgency that the situation demands and the unity that Americans expect on matters of national security.

In these days of economic uncertainty, Americans are watching the Senate very closely. The \$13 trillion national debt has concentrated a lot of minds on what we are doing here. Some have tried to defend the extenders bill and the nearly \$100 billion it would add to the debt. I think most Americans would say the real emergency here is the \$13 trillion debt. Even some Democrats seem to agree with me. That is why we are seeing a quiet revolt over in the House on this bill. We must do something about our debt.

On the oilspill, there appears to be some good news this morning. We hope what we are hearing proves to be true. Americans are eager to hear what the President has to say this afternoon. More important, they are eager to see what the administration plans to do. But for now, we are all hoping that the efforts to stop this leak are sustained.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume conversation H.R. 4899, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4899) making emergency supplemental appropriations for emergency disaster relief and summer jobs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 4174, to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

Sessions/McCaskill amendment No. 4173, to establish 3-year discretionary spending caps.

Wyden/Grassley amendment No. 4183, to establish as a standing order of the Senate that a Senator publicly disclose a notice of intent to objecting to any measure or matter.

Feingold amendment No. 4204, to require a plan for safe, orderly, and expeditious redeployment of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan.

McCain amendment No. 4214, to provide for the National Guard support to secure the southern land border of the United States.

Cornyn modified amendment No. 4202, to make appropriations to improve border security, with an offset from unobligated appropriations under division A of Public Law 111-5.